

Minutes of: **PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 25 January 2011

PRESENT: Councillor Sandiford (Chair)
Councillors Crawforth, L Barnes, Lamb, Oakes, Stansfield, and Thorne

Irene Divine (co-opted Member)

IN ATTENDANCE: Edgar Oldham, Rossendale Transport Ltd
Matthew Parkes, Rossendale Transport Ltd
Alistair Nuttall, Rossendale Transport Ltd
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer
Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources
Councillor Cheetham, Chair and Independent Director of Rossendale Transport
Councillor C Pilling
Councillor J Pilling

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Brendan O'Reilly, Rossendale Transport.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minute of the meeting held on 16 November 2010 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items for discussion.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Essex declared a personal interest as Vice-Chair of Rossendale Transport.

Councillor Thorne declared a personal interest as a Board Member of Rossendale Transport.

Councillor L Barnes declared a personal interest as a Board Member of Rossendale Transport.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public raised an issue of the Council's finances which he felt did not reflect the actual position nor the real cost of individual services. He reiterated his comments made at the last meeting indicating his lack of faith in the way the Council's accounts were produced. He referred to the Council's Corporate Spend Analysis for April –December 2010, which were available on the Councils website and the lack of information for members to base their decisions on.

The Head of Finance informed Members that he had had separate discussions with the Member of the public and accepted that it was difficult to understand statutory accounts, however, he had previously referred the member of public to the Council's budget book, the monthly financial monitoring reports and that if anyone requested 'spend by location' this was not problem.

The Chair responded by informing the member of the public that as a Scrutiny Committee they look carefully at all services in relation to cost and performance. The Scrutiny Committee in particular regularly review the performance of Rossendale Leisure Trust, its financial performance and the cost of individual leisure facilities, all of which are open to the public.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair asked everyone at the meeting to introduce themselves.

In relation to the meals served to patients at the rehabilitation assessment unit in the new Rossendale Primary Health Care Centre, the Chair confirmed that having spoken to the patients she was happy that the soup and sandwiches were adequate for lunch.

Members were reminded that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Meeting was on 2nd February and the Medium Term Financial Strategy Update for 2012-2015 was the main item for discussion. She asked that those Members who had copies of all the appendices for the Cabinet meeting to keep them for the meeting on 2 February, to save on photocopying costs. Copies were available from the Scrutiny Support Officer for those who needed them.

7. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) under Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and information which is subject to any

obligation of confidentiality as defined in Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

8. ROSSENDALE TRANSPORT LIMITED

Matthew Parkes, Finance Director, presented the day to day management accounts which included projections for the next few months.

Members raised questions to which the three Directors of Rossendale Transport present responded.

Resolved:

That Members noted the budget report and asked for additional information which would help Members understands targets and statistics more clearly for the next meeting.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm at finished at 8.30pm

Signed:
(Chair)

Date: